JUSTIN BIEBER'S BUTT BECOMES A MEME

ONE NAUGHTY INSTAGRAM, AND THE INTERNET GOES CRAZY. PAGE 14

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Garden, interrupted

Veggies. North Philly Peace Park gardeners say setting up a new lot they received from the PHA after their original garden was seized has created uncertainty. PAGE 02

North Philly Peace Park organizer Pili X at the garden's new location granted to them by the PHA on 22nd and Jefferson streets. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Subway suspends Jared over porn probe

PAGE 09

How to give your home an instant update

PAGE 22

Union look to string together victories

PAGE 24

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1 NEWS

Top 3

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1 'Bunny infestation overruns Boston'

2 'Smash tourneys hot in Greater Boston'

3 'Early humans had sex with literally everything (UPDATED)'

New comic

Get ready to laugh

Check out the adventures of Detective Boogaloo in Metro's new comic, "Hip-Hop Cop," from award-winning Philadelphia artist Jamar Nicholas. It's the story of a break-dancing cop, superpowers and evil rappers who must be vanquished. Nicholas is the host of the podcast "Comic Book Diner," and his adaptation of "Fist Stick Knife Gun," a memoir about young adult violence, is taught in schools across the nation.

Find "Hip-Hop Cop" at metro.us /hip-hop-cop/

Pili X holds a sign at the Peace Park on 22nd and Jefferson streets in North Philadelphia. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

North Philly Peace Park tries to start over

Open space. Gardeners say setting up on a new lot they got from the PHA after their original garden was seized has created uncertainty.

At the North Philly Peace Park, which takes up two formerly vacant parcels off 22nd and Jefferson streets, tomato and pepper plants bud in two planters, while four young fruit trees have been placed nearby.

They've been sowing seeds since May, and while it's a nice start, it's a modest showing compared with the original park, where organizers estimate that some three tons of produce were harvested in three years.

But this year, the organizers aren't sure how much they'll yield.

The original North Philly Peace Park was located on a vacant lot that the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) seized and fenced up in April to begin development of a new housing project. In return, the PHA gave the Park's organizers a new lot — but the transition hasn't been easy.

"Our growing season and our production has been disrupted by being displaced by PHA," said Pili X, community outreach coordinator at the Peace Park. "Right now they haven't lived up to their verbal agreements … as far as giving us a permanent spot."

Not a bite to eat

According to the USDA, the area surrounding the park is a food desert, or lacking in healthful food options within walking distance.

- The nearest supermarkets are a Fresh Grocer by Temple's campus and a Whole Foods in Fairmount, which are one mile and 1.5 miles away respectively.

According to X, the Peace Park was an alternative to the "papi stores" in the area, where someone could pick up not just produce, but fresh herbs and spices.

"I don't think they [PHA] know how serious this is as far as food security for this community," X said.

Weeds have overgrown at the old fenced-off park. It used to host neighborhood days, Saturday school, fairs and fireside chats, among other activities.

Farm coordinator Amia Jackson said that with sorting out their new space, this year's programming has come to standstill.

In return for giving up their original garden, the PHA offered the North Philly Peace Park gardeners green space just blocks away within the plan for the Sharswood-Blumberg Housing Project.

According to Jackson, PHA offered them a standard, one-year gardening lease that would have run from April to November. Organizers were hoping to see a longer term and an agreement to cover possible soil remediation, Jackson explained, as elder neighbors recalled that a garage was once located on the new garden's site.

"PHA said they couldn't afford that," said Jackson. "We haven't gotten anything since."

Quoted

"We're trying to get another semi-permanent location where we can do educational programming for the community. But it's been difficult."
Jackson

CASSIE OWENS
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McNabb's mug shot from his DUI arrest last week / PROVIDED

Busted. Former Eagles QB Donovan McNabb arrested on suspicion of another DUI in Arizona

Former Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb was recently arrested for DUI in Arizona, according to reports.

McNabb was arrested one week ago after he rear-ended another car while it was waiting at a red light in Gilbert, Arizona, Deadspin reported.

According to police, the crash occurred June 28 around 11:30 p.m.

McNabb was found to be "impaired by alcohol," police said, and was arrested and cited.

It's not the first time McNabb was busted driving under the influence in Arizona.

He served a day in jail after he was busted for DUI in January 2014 in Maricopa County.

McNabb, whose No. 5 jersey number was retired by the Eagles in September 2013, played a little more than 11 seasons in the NFL, including stints with the Washington Redskins and Minnesota Vikings. He also used to work as an analyst for "Fox Sports Live."

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Crime

Mayfair tire slasher sentenced to jail time

The infamous Mayfair tire slasher was sentenced to three to six years in prison on Monday for violating his probation after his second arrest for damaging the tires of neighborhood vehicles.

David Toledo / PROVIDED

David Toledo, 47, wept and pleaded for mercy before sentencing, the Daily News reported.

Toledo earned himself a stiffer sentence for violating his probation from a previous tire-slashing arrest.

He was sentenced to probation in May 2014, after he was found guilty of slashing his neighbors' tires, but was arrested again just months later in November of that year after he allegedly propped a glue mouse trap with nails poking out under the tire of a SEPTA bus.

Toledo was first busted in April 2012 and charged with nearly 50 tire slashings over the previous six months throughout Mayfair, including his neighbors' cars. SAM NEWHOUSE

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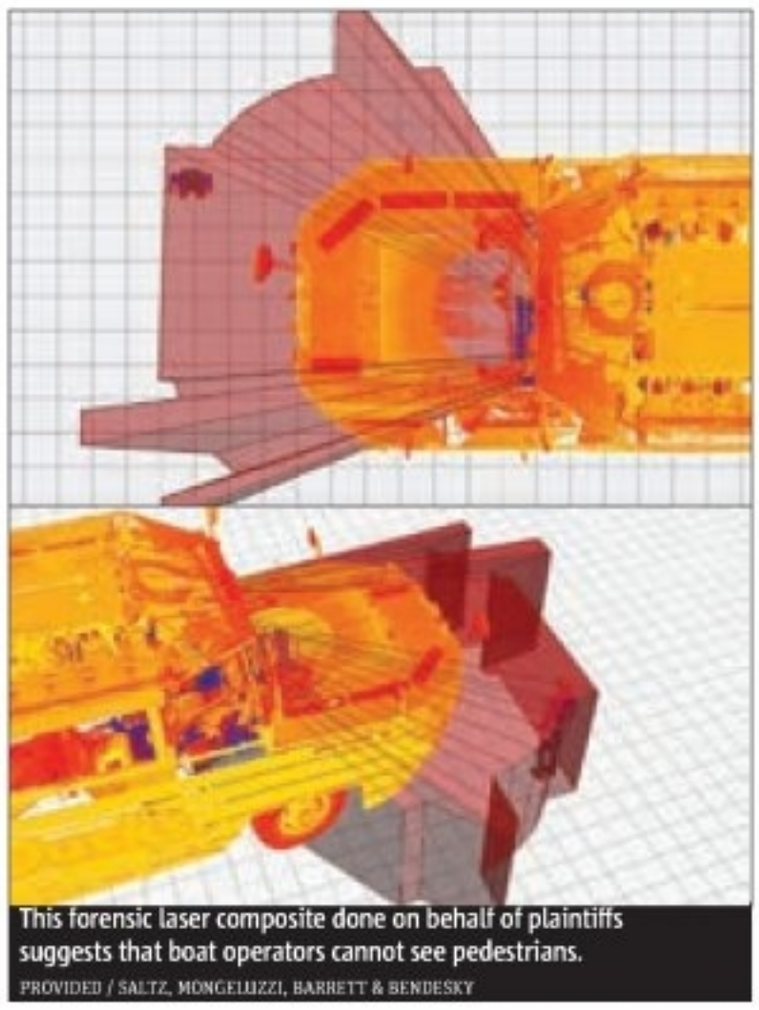
This forensic laser composite done on behalf of plaintiffs suggests that boat operators cannot see pedestrians.
PROVIDED / SALTZ, MONGELUZZI, BARRETT & BENDESKY

Suit: Ride the Ducks death 'inevitable'

Danger. According to lawyers, the tourist boats should be taken off the road.

A lawsuit filed on behalf of a woman who was run over by a Ride the Ducks boat in May says the amphibious tourist vehicles are unsafe.

Lawyers for the family of Dr. Elizabeth Karnacki said the duck boats have huge blind spots that prevent drivers from seeing pedestrians. That danger is compounded by the fact that drivers do double duty as tour operators, the lawsuit states.

Karnacki, 68, of Beaumont, Texas, was killed at the intersection of 11th and Arch streets as she was crossing the street.

The company said in a statement: "Our driver, a retired commercial airline pilot, was not tasked with delivering the narration; he was accompanied by a narrator focused on delivering the tour to our guests. Witnesses interviewed by the police also stated that the decedent walked out against a red light, was distracted and the driver was not at fault. No citation was issued and the police indicated Ride The Ducks was not at fault."

But the lawsuit tells a slightly different story.

Lawyers say the duck boat was stopped at a red light and that Karnacki began crossing the street before the light turned green. The driver failed to notice her because of the vehicle's large blind spots.

Representatives of Ride the Duck returned a call to say they would issue a statement. Metro did not immediately receive the statement.

In 2010, a Ride the Duck boat sank in the Delaware River after it became disabled in the water and was struck by a barge. The tugboat operator who was pushing the barge upstream was on his cellphone at the time of the collision. Two people died in that incident.

The lawsuit, which names Ride the Ducks, its parent company and the manufacturer of the vehicles, said the duck boats are unsafe and should taken off the streets.

The lawsuit was filed by Robert Mongeluzzi, who negotiated a $17 million judgment against the company on behalf of passengers of the sunken duck boat.

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Hazing

St Joe's coach cleared of charges

Two months after a female softball player at St. Joseph's University filed suit against the school and the team's coach for alleged sexual hazing — followed shortly by a second lawsuit — the school announced that it has cleared the coach of any wrongdoing.

Softball coach Terri Adams was named as a defendant in the lawsuit filed by a freshman claiming she and other first-year Hawks were forced to simulate oral sex on wine bottles, that she was made to drink alcohol even though she was on medication and underage and even had to simulate the coach having an orgasm.

The plaintiff, identified as Jane Doe, said she experienced most of these acts in the fall of 2013 during what was known as an "initiation week." SAM NEWHOUSE

Ten years of LGBTQ youth portraits released in book

Photography. Rachelle Lee Smith, a Philadelphia-based artist, has released a book chronicling the lives of 65 LGBTQ youth across the country.

A local photographer who has specialized in portraits of LGBT youths for more than a decade was reunited with several of her subjects during a talk about her recently published collection at the Free Library.

"I just wanted to create a book that was for us, by us," Philly photographer Rachelle Lee Smith, 34, told attendees Monday night during the talk at the Independence Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

The cover of Speaking OUT: Queer Youth in Focus / PROVIDED

Smith was there to discuss Speaking OUT: Queer Youth in Focus. A photographic and personal narrative of 65 LGBTQ youths between the ages of 14 to 24, Speaking OUT originated as a personal project that was not initially intended to be published, Smith said.

"It sparked from a growing curiosity of the different coming out experiences of those LGBTQ around me," said Smith, who openly identifies as a lesbian.

"I was fortunate to have an accepting and loving family … but I knew that, unfortunately, this wasn't the same result for many when I came to college," she said.

At age 21, the University of the Arts graduate began photographing and archiving the volunteer youth images of those lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and of queer identity around her. She would reach out to personal friends until word of mouth got the project recognition around Philadelphia.

"I later went to the Attic Youth Center, and then local campus groups reached out to me to share their stories as a way to volunteer themselves for the project. … We photographed each one, authentically hand printed, at my UArts studio behind a white background," Smith said of the project, which started in 2002. "It was fascinating to me what images they would choose to describe themselves from the photo shoot … what personal stories they would write on them as a result."

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Community service program in Philly

More than 200 student volunteers from 10 churches across the country descended on the Philadelphia's Wilson Park to paint houses, clean properties and refurbish some homes as part of the World Changers summer community service program.

PHOTOS BY CHARLES MOSTOLLER

A YOUNG BOY BLOWS BUBBLES FOR VOLUNTEERS.

HEATHER CHORON, LEFT, AND ANDREA MCCLENDON PAINT A HOUSE.

SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RIGHT, AND BETH RITCHIE PAINT THE FRONT OF A HOME.

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Subway's Jared Fogle target of child porn investigation: Report

Case. Attorney for Fogle says he is cooperating in the probe.

Authorities searched the Indiana home of Subway sandwich chain pitchman Jared Fogle on Tuesday, about two months after the executive director of his foundation was arrested on federal child pornography charges.

Fogle, well known from his appearances on Subway television commercials, was detained for a time outside his home in Zionsville, a suburb northwest of Indianapolis, as law enforcement agents removed electronics from the house, local news outlet WTHR reported.

Jared Fogle / TWITTER

Weight loss

245

Fogle became a Subway spokesman after losing a reported 245 pounds in part by eating regularly at the sandwich chain. Fogle made his first Subway commercial in 2000 and appeared in a new one last year, according to the company's website.

Fogle left his home in the upscale neighborhood around midday as the search continued, according to local media.

It was not clear whether Fogle, a father of two, is a target of what authorities have said is a joint investigation by local, state and federal law enforcement officials. Officials declined to comment about the activity at Fogle's home.

Two police cars were parked in front of the two-story white brick house and law enforcement officers could be seen going in and out of the building. A large white truck belonging to law enforcement was stationed in the driveway of Fogle's home.

The Associated Press tweeted: "Subway says it is suspending relationship with spokesman Jared Fogle amid investigation."

REUTERS

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Five things you

1 Two killed when F-16 collides with small plane over SC

A U.S. military fighter jet and a small plane collided over South Carolina on Tuesday, authorities said, killing two aboard the private plane while the military pilot ejected safely.

The collision involved an F-16 fighter aircraft and a Cessna C-150, the Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement. The agency said the crash occurred at around 11 a.m. north of Charleston.

The two people aboard the Cessna were both killed, a spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board said. The agency is investigating the crash.

The pilot of the military aircraft ejected safely and was taken for a health evaluation, according to a statement from Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina, where the F-16 was based.

"From what I understand from a witness, the military plane struck the other, small aircraft broadside," Bill Salisbury, the Berkeley County coroner as well as the chief of the volunteer rescue squad, said at a press conference.

The crash occurred over Moncks Corner, according to the NTSB.

Debris from the small plane had been found scattered over a wide area, including in a rice field, local authorities said. REUTERS

2 US concerned over detention of 100 activists in Cuba

The State Department raised concern about the detentions of about 100 peaceful activists in Cuba this week, but said it would not slow the restoration of diplomatic relations.

The State Department had seen reports about the beating and detention of political activist Antonio Rodiles in Cuba and U.S. interests there had confirmed the detentions of almost 100 activists on Sunday, spokesman John Kirby said.

"Certainly, it's concerning to us," Kirby said. "We're always going to be very vocal and very candid about human rights concerns wherever we see them." REUTERS

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need to know

Facebook to build new data center in Fort Worth, Texas

Facebook announced plans on Tuesday to build a new data center in Fort Worth, Texas, its fourth in the U.S. and fifth overall.

Facebook will invest at least $500 million in the global data center, a spokesperson said, and will hire at least 40 full-time employees. The center will also be powered entirely by renewable energy, Tom Furlong, Facebook's vice president of infrastructure, wrote in a blog post.

As part of the deal, the 1.4 billion-user social network brought 200 megawatts of new wind energy to Texas, Furlong wrote. REUTERS

Army to cut 40,000 troops over next two years

The U.S. Army plans to cut 40,000 troops over the next two years, affecting all its domestic and foreign posts, USA Today reported on Tuesday, citing a plan it said was due to be announced this week.

It said the plan also called for cutting up to 17,000 civilian employees.
REUTERS

A soldier takes his position during a drill. / GETTY IMAGES

Florida State QB dismissed for punching woman in bar

Florida State University's president said he fully supports head coach Jimbo Fisher's decision to dismiss De'Andre Johnson from the football team after video surfaced showing the freshman quarterback punching a woman in a bar.

Fisher took the action on Monday night after prosecutors released the June 24 surveillance video taken inside a Tallahassee nightclub.

"I fully support Coach Fisher's decisions to immediately suspend and subsequently dismiss De'Andre Johnson from the football team," Florida State President John Thrasher said in a statement.
REUTERS

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FBI seeks victims in sextortion plot that targeted teens

Investigation.
Federal agents want help ID hundreds of teen victims of sexual exploitation.

A Florida man has been sentenced to more than 100 years behind bars for masterminding a sextortion scheme that targeted hundreds of teen girls across the United States, including four victims in Massachusetts.

Now the FBI is asking the public's help identifying additional victims of convicted online predator Lucas Michael Chansler, 31, of St. Johns, Florida.

Federal investigators said Chansler earned himself a 105-year stay in federal prison for engaging in an extortion plot to produce underage porn. Court testimony indicates that he targeted about 350 minors in 26 states. So far, 109 victims have been identified.

Documents show that from 2007 to Jan. 8, 2010, Chansler threatened hundreds of teenage girls with the intent of extorting the photos and webcam videos of sexually exploitative material. He would engage the girls online, pretending to be a friend, acquaintance or an admirer of the victims, investigators said. Their ages ranged from 13 to 18. Chansler told authorities that he targeted minors because adults were "too smart" to fall for his act.

After gaining the victim's trust, Chansler would convince them to expose themselves and secretly recorded the video session, the FBI said. Chansler often enticed his victims to expose themselves by showing a streaming video of a minor male exposing himself or engaging in sexually explicit behavior. If a victim did expose herself, he recorded it, and then demanded additional and more graphic images or webcam videos. He would tell the victim that if she did not comply, he would distribute the images and videos online, or send them to her family and friends.

So far, authorities have identified 109 victims, but they need help finding the rest. Investigators have a list of 135 screen names from Myspace, Stickham and AIM.

Using information received from the parents of one victim and working with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), agents were able to identify Chansler and locate his home. A federal search warrant was executed at the residence on Jan. 8, 2010.

Forensic analysis of Chansler's computer media revealed hundreds of folders labeled with the name of each victim. These folders, some labeled "DONE" or "PROSPECTS," contained personal information specific to the victims, as well as related chat logs and videos or digital photos.

Authorities are looking to get in contact with anyone who might have been victim of Chansler's crime.

NATE HOMAN, METRO

GRAPHIC BY BILLY BECERRA, METRO

How the sextortion happens

1. Chansler pretends to be a 15-year-old boy, to strike up conversation with teenage girls in chat rooms.
2. The girls expose themselves in a video chat, not realizing that he is doing a screen capture.
3. He then uses the screen-capture images to blackmail the teens into giving him more naked poses.

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Caught on video

Man charged with slashing fire hose during Baltimore riot arraigned

A Baltimore man allegedly filmed slashing a fire hose at a burning pharmacy during April rioting over the death of Freddie Gray was arraigned on Tuesday.

A jury trial for Greg Butler Jr., 22, who is also known as Greg Bailey, has been scheduled for Aug. 14 in Baltimore City Circuit Court, court documents show.

Butler was allegedly caught on video puncturing a hose as firefighters battled a blaze on April 27, at a CVS Health Corp pharmacy.

The store was torched during unrest after the funeral of Gray, a 25-year-old black man who died from an injury suffered in police custody. REUTERS

Gov. Cuomo

All NY colleges to adopt 'yes means yes' sex assault policy

Legislation requiring universities in New York state to adopt a uniform affirmative sexual consent policy was signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Tuesday.

The so-called "yes means yes" standard defines sexual consent between people as an affirmative, conscious and voluntary understanding to engage in sexual activity. It is part of a nationwide movement aimed at curbing sexual assaults on college campuses.

"Why is sex assault on college campuses such a problem? Because we let it go on too long," Cuomo said at New York University, where he spoke to a crowd of the bill's supporters.

The legislation expands regulations that apply only to State University of New York schools. REUTERS

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Road-trip money hacks

The average person spends $898 on a weeklong road trip, but we found five ways to cut costs. / ISTOCK

Budgeting. Five ways to save money on your cross-country vacation this summer.

Sixty-five percent of Americans are more likely to take a road trip this summer than they were last summer, according to a recent survey by booking site Travelocity. But while a domestic road trip might appear like an affordable alternative to traveling abroad, costs can easily spiral out of control. A recent study by travel site Expedia found that Americans expect to pay an average of $898 per person for a weeklong trip within their own country, hardly chump change. To keep a lid on summer road-trip costs, we canvassed financial planners for their best tips, culled from personal experience. Here's what they had to say.

Use apps to your advantage

Not that long ago, travelers squinted at printed maps and missed exits. These days, there is no excuse for not using smartphone apps. Google Maps, for instance, will get you from Point A to Point B without getting lost and racking up unnecessary mileage. GasBuddy will locate the cheapest local stations where you can fill up the tank. Apps like RoadNinja and Roadtrippers can tell you about local amenities and help plan your route, and HotelTonight or Hotels.com can locate last-minute lodging discounts nearby.

Get campy

Ditch the hotels, and stay in campgrounds, says financial planner Therese Nicklas. By camping in state parks with her family of four for around $10 a night and cooking their own food, Nicklas estimates they save about $150 every single day. Also consider an annual pass from the National Park Service, allowing you access to more than 2,000 sites nationwide for $80.

Hold money-saving competitions

Adviser Niv Persaud has an innovative idea for families: Make budgeting a game with your kids instead of a chore. "For each dollar they save on coupons, special deals or cheap gas, they earn a star," Persaud says. "The one with the most stars at the end of the trip gets to pick the location for the next family vacation."

Forget flights and car rentals

Whatever savings you realize by staying domestic could be wiped out by airline bookings and car- or RV-rental fees. So do what David MacLeod did, and schlep to your destination in your own car, even if it's a long distance away. The planner from Fullerton, California, recently took his family all the way from southern California to Montana in their trusty Honda Odyssey, saving $1,000 in the process.

Bring your own food

The silent killer of many family travel budgets: Eating out. Nip that in the bud with a cooler or two stuffed to the brim with snacks and quick meals. "A simple gallon of milk, box of cereal, yogurts and fresh fruit can provide a great breakfast at 1/4 of the cost of eating out," says Janice Cackowski, a planner in Independence, Ohio. She also advises eating out only at lunch, when restaurant prices tend to be much lower. REUTERS

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2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Barack Obama is jamming, Samantha Ronson hungers, Adam Scott is not joking about Cosby, Garry Shandling feels cheated and Conan O'Brien may have a hit on his hands.

@POTUS:
was listening to outkast/liberation and the black keys/lonely boy this morning.

@samantharonson:
I just want apple pie all the time!

@mradamscott:
Seriously though Bill Cosby is a serial rapist, and needs to go to prison forever.

@GarryShandling:
I don't have kids, yet my friends' kids make me feel old. That is not fair.

@ConanOBrien:
I'm writing an Irish-Catholic version of "Inside Out," where the only 2 characters are Guilt and Jameson's.

Is this about that Pixar short, "Lava"? / @JUSTINBEIBER/INSTAGRAM

1 The Justin Bieber bare butt Photoshop challenge

Justin Bieber has gifted the Internet with a bright, colorful photo of his gleaming white bum, and the Internet is not one to look a gift butt in the mouth. (Wait, what?) Truly, it's a magnificent sight, captioned with the simple, imploring command to "Look." He is, after all, an artist.

Never one to be passive, the Internet did more than just look. No, the snarky digital collective has heard the challenge thrown down by Canada's reigning pop imp, and they have answered in rare form with some truly amazing Photoshop magic, some satirical, some surreal. If Kim Kardashian's bare ass broke the Internet, it's Justin Bieber's that put it back together again.

And sometimes it's Bieber's fellow pop stars who have the best responses to these things, as Miley Cyrus proved. Damn, girl. Dat booty.

Visit **Metro.us** to see more inspired takes on Bieber's rear end.

@MILEYCYRUS/INSTAGRAM

2 Channing Tatum 'did a lot of bad things' as a stripper

TELL US EVERYTHING.

If Channing Tatum wants to continue to cash in on his days as a desperate male stripper for lucrative "Magic Mike" movies — and why wouldn't he? — then he's going to have to keep fielding questions about his days on the pole. "It was one complete year of down-the-rabbit-hole crazy. I am glad I moved on. It definitely has some seedy, darker sides," he tells the Daily Telegraph. "I did a lot of bad things for one-dollar bills." Is he teasing more material for the third — and inevitably 3-D-ized – "Magic Mike" installment? Because sure!

Also of note in the world of Tatum wisdom: Being a stripper and being in a relationship is tricky. "Just think about it. You have your wife or your girlfriend, and then you go and basically run your junk all over women as a job," he explains. "That can get confusing." Duly noted.

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

NED EHRBAR
@Nedrick
ned.ehrbar@metro.us

That was, like, a killer set, man.

3 Katy Perry and John Mayer, total deadheads

Let's check in on the romantic goings-on of on-again, off-again Katy Perry and John Mayer, shall we? After spending the spring popping up on dates for dinner in L.A. and general merriment at Disney Land, Perry and Mayer were most recently spotted soaking in the farewell concert for the Grateful Dead in Chicago. Photos submitted to TMZ show the cozy couple all wrapped up in each other during the show, though in one shot Perry is hugging Mayer from behind, making it very difficult for her to see the stage. But hey, maybe he's just more into the Dead than she is.

Daily video

Newsies dance to 'Uptown Funk'

@SAMANTHACLAYTON/INSTAGRAM

Consider this the slightly more tolerable equivalent of how you can set almost anything to "Shake It Off" — or the musical theater-friendly version of videos making Beyonce dance to just about any song. Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk" proves to be as versatile a pop hit as Taylor Swift's contributions, as proven here when it's applied to those lovable dancing ruffians from "Newsies." Or maybe it's just that the Newsies are up there with Bey in their adaptability. Whichever, I'd gladly help cover the hospital bills of someone who wants to ask Christian Bale to recreate this performance. That boy had serious moves.

4 Ryan Reynolds is not a fan of Father Time

Fatherhood has made Ryan Reynolds terrified of time's unrelenting forward march toward oblivion. Wow, that got heavy quick. Let's let him explain: "You suddenly feel the inexorable amount of time go by," he tells AOL Build. "There's nothing that ages you faster than having a kid — not because you wake up in the middle of the night every five seconds because someone's got to s— themselves. You're looking at this person and time is just flying by, like how is it possible that you're already half a year old?"

Just don't think about it, man.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Rachel Platten on fighting her way to the top

Interview. The pop star wrote her hit "Fight Song" at one of the lowest points in her life.

Rachel Platten performed her hit "Fight Song" last month to a stadium crowd of 50,000 people at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia alongside Taylor Swift. "I was perched below the stage waiting to be lifted up onto it and Taylor was introducing the song, talking about how much it meant to her," Platten tells us. "I heard the crowd, saw the lights and it just felt amazing. It was a dream come true."

Rachel Platten is currently touring with Christina Perri. / PROVIDED

Reaching her breaking point

It wasn't too long ago that Platten was actually contemplating giving up music altogether. The 34-year-old singer had been pursuing a music career for several years, and while she had a few high points, her "big break" didn't look like it was ever going to happen.

"It didn't seem like there were a lot of reasons to keep going," she says. "Doors kept closing and it was becoming harder and harder. I started doubting myself. I wrote 'Fight Song' as this declaration to not give up on myself. I was still going to believe in myself no matter what.'" The song has now been in the Billboard Top 20 for more than a month and even went to No. 1 on iTunes, ahead of, yes, Taylor Swift.

Roommates and rent money

Platten first started her music career in New York City, living in Greenwich Village. "I lived with my childhood best friend and a friend of hers," she says. "We had a blast. They would come into my room and sit on my bed while I played them music. They'd suggest lyric ideas or help me make posters. It was really fun."

But her life was far from perfect. To pay her rent, Platten worked a string of jobs, many of which she got fired from. "I worked at a fashion magazine that was very 'Devil Wears Prada,' I was an awful waitress, I worked as a consultant and as an analyst," Platten says.

Far from finished

Even now, the singer doesn't feel like she's "made it." "I don't even know what that means!" she says. "I'm just so grateful that my message seems to be resonating and that people are identifying with something I believe in so firmly."

Platten's EP is out now, and she says she is putting the finishing touches on her first full-length album.

"The songs touch on a range of emotions, but all of them come from a really honest place in my heart," she says. "There's a song on my EP called 'Congratulations' that I literally wrote midfight with a friend. So a lot of my songs were written midfeeling, whether that feeling is joy, love or pain."

A new fight song? Sounds like another hit.

If you go

Rachel Platten

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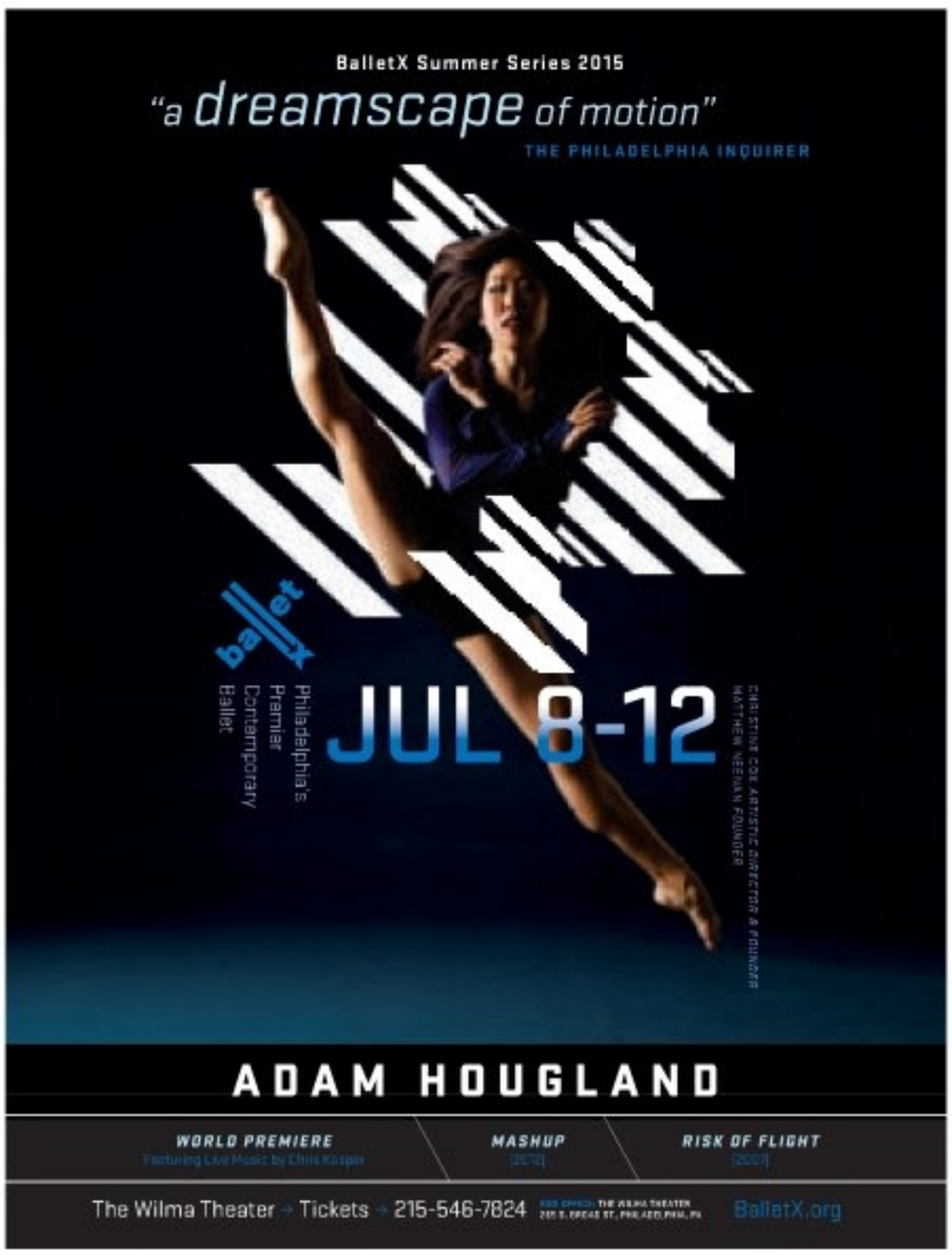

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Mara Hoffman launches boho activewear line

Workout chic.
Stand out with these bold, kaleidoscope prints.

Mara Hoffman owns the playful prints market and now she's bringing her signature kaleidoscope patterns to her new activewear line. The collection, which includes sports bras, tank tops, leggings, jumpsuits, sweatpants and a feather-printed yoga mat, is available at Bloomingdale's, Shopbop, Net-A-Porter and Carbon38. With colorful feather, evil eye and seagull prints, these looks are not for wallflowers. But the bohemian spirit of the line is a reminder that fitness should be fun.

EVIL EYE BRA TOP $118, LEGGINGS $158

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PURPLE BRA TOP $108, LEGGINGS $158

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He sees jazz singers

Interview. Former child star Haley Joel Osment is taking a more comedic turn in the jazz singer/murder mystery spoof "The Spoils Before Dying."

The show airs three nights in a row, beginning tonight at 9 on IFC. The earlier series, "The Spoils of Babylon," is available on Netflix. / KATRINA MARCINOWSKI, IFC

We were first introduced last year to the fictional oeuvre of Eric Jonrosh, a slightly delusional filmmaker (played by Will Ferrell) who's releasing his earlier opuses to a modern audience now that the world is more accepting. The first installation was "The Spoils of Babylon," starring Tobey Maguire and Kristen Wiig; the new one is "The Spoils Before Dying," starring Michael Kenneth Williams as Rock Banyon, a jazz musician falsely accused of killing his lover. Returning for the second season is Haley Joel Osment (and a bunch of former "SNL" stars, including Wiig), this time playing Rock's producer, a slightly oblivious Brit named Alistair St. Barnaby. Part spoof, part Ed Wood-esque effort to make a film with no money and a cockeyed artistic vision, the series is hard to pin down, so we asked Osment to clear things up for us.

How would you describe the genre of "Spoils Before Dying"?
I have been saying epic psychedelic jazz murder mystery.

And what's Alistair's deal?
Alistair is sort of single-minded in pursuit of one album he wants Rock to record, which is a big cheesy strings album that will help Rock cross over. He has a lot of artistic integrity with his hard bop albums and his free jazz and everything, and Alistair wants him to soften up his style and release an album that will be really commercially successful. And he does that no matter what's happening with Rock. When they're on the run from this murder charge, he's still trying to get Rock to stop into the studio to record it.

GETTY IMAGES

He puts up with a lot from Rock, who isn't too interested in the album.
Alistair knows he's hitched his wagon to the right star, so he's willing to put up with that sort of behavior. As I think a lot of those characters do. When you're working with an artistic genius, you have to put up with their troubles.

What's it like working with all those "Saturday Night Live" stars?
I think it's just one of those things where they're so good at what they do, they make everyone around them better. Being in a scene with Tim Meadows or Kristen Wiig — unfortunately I didn't have any scenes with Will or with Kate McKinnon this season — but you just learn a lot from how loose they are on set and how much fun they're having with what they're doing.

LISA WEIDENFELD
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Faking it

Winter in Malibu

With so many funny people on set, is it hard not to break and laugh?
We were pretty good. And also there's so many moving parts in this, because they're using really specific old-school filmmaking styles. Sometimes that means really low-rent effects on purpose. Like, we had this scene at a snowy cabin in the woods that we were shooting on a 100-degree day in Malibu and they were blowing fake snow, which is actually like hot cotton balls, at us in this cabin. There's so much going on that maintaining focus is really important.

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Dancing to indie rock

Leap. BalletX's world premiere takes its cues from the music of a local singer-songwriter.

When Chris Kasper released "Bagabones" in 2013, he knew the album was different. And while he couldn't have predicted it would inspire a ballet, his collaboration with BalletX has turned out to make perfect sense.

"I love the idea of this because I felt like I was really onto something with this record, and wanted to see where it could go after its release," says the Philadelphia-based singer-songwriter of working with choreographer Adam Hougland. "In general, there is certain artistic expression that I'm drawn to. It's not the overly happy, excited or aggressive stuff — it's the sadder, weirder, heartbreaking stuff that I like, and dance can dive into this just as much as any other art."

We caught up with Kasper before the piece's world premiere as part of BalletX's Summer Series.

What does it feel like to see "Bagabones" play out through someone else's lens?
It's pretty amazing. This is an unexpected direction for sure, but a very welcome one. It's a real honor to hand it off to Adam and BalletX. To see something you've created take on new life under the direction of such passionate, creative and professional people is a true validation to me.

You'll be playing onstage with a full band during the performance. How is this different than a typical show?
Not too much different for me, except that because it's seven shows in the same place, I don't have to haul my stuff back and forth every night. But really, I'm just planning on giving a solid performance and letting the dancers take the songs to the audience. We now get to see the movement of the rhythms and the expressions of the melodies carried out through dance.

Has your relationship to dance changed after this experience?
I'm embarrassed to say I had no relation to dance before this connection. I knew a few dancers but never sought it out on stages. But now I can connect with dance very deeply, just like music. The power of expression that dance provides to the observer is new to me but at the same time seems familiar. The first time I saw BalletX perform, I cried. I was overwhelmed with how beautiful everything was. It's a perfect extension of music, using forms instead of sounds.

MONICA WEYMOUTH
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The BalletX Summer Series is tonight to Sunday at The Wilma Theater, 265 S. Broad St. Tickets are $22-$35 at www.balletx.org. / ALEXANDER IZILIAEV

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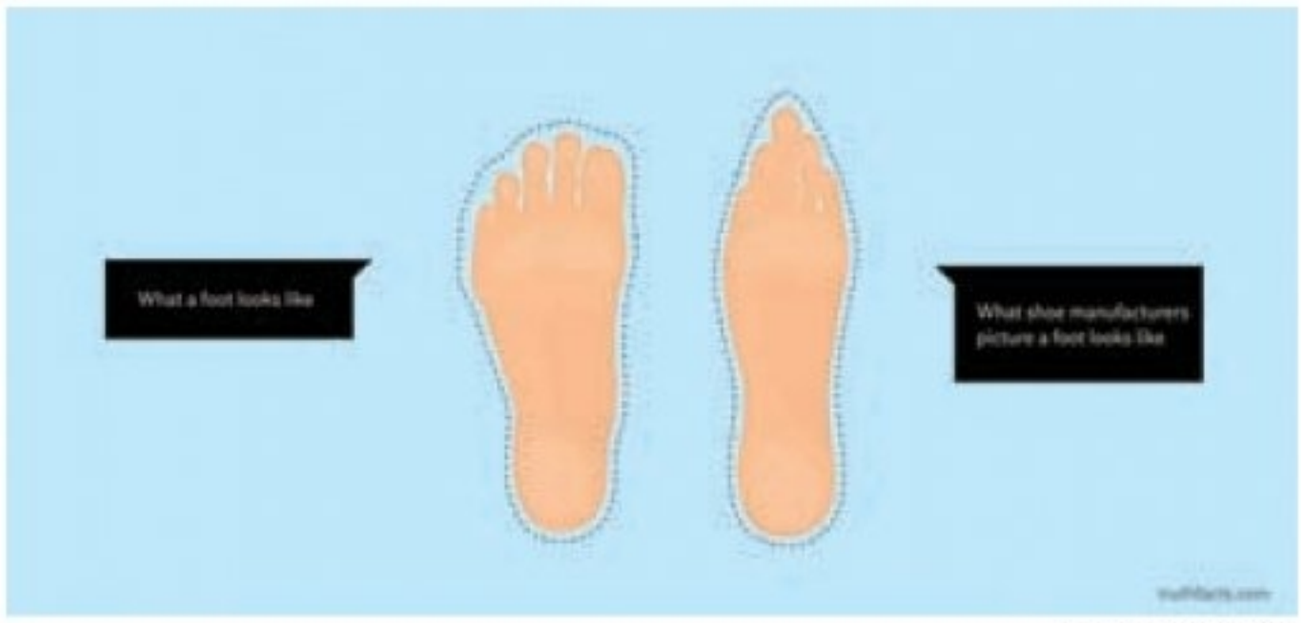

BY WULFF & MORGENTHALER

/horoscopes

Aries You don't need to explain your every move. Do whatever it takes to ensure your future security. Do what's right for you.

Taurus By making minor repairs and adjustments to your residence, you will increase the value of your home and add to your comfort.

Gemini Friendships will develop through involvement in a cause. If you do your best to help others, a leadership position will become available.

Cancer The risk to your health is not worth the added responsibility. An interesting proposal will give you additional free time.

Leo You will not have a problem recruiting partners for your next big project. Physical activity will help to relieve tension.

Virgo No one is placing pressure on you; it's you who is fretting about what others think and do. Get your life in perspective and stop worrying.

Libra You'll have trouble communicating today. This would be a good time to catch up on some reading or begin work on a project.

Scorpio Be good to yourself. Enjoy a favorite meal, call up an old friend and keep your projects to a minimum until you regain your energy.

Sagittarius You need to take part in something new. Gather friends and neighbors and organize a day of competitions that will motivate everyone.

Capricorn Your schedule will be turned upside down. Remain calm. Becoming emotional will only make matters worse.

Aquarius A trip with friends will provide inspiration for a new career direction. You will be surprised at the opportunities that are available.

Pisces Make it a habit when you arrive home to do something to take your thoughts off your job.

EUGENIA LAST

metro.us /games

/sudoku

easy

				3	5			4
8		4			1			7
	2	7	6				1	
	9		3					
	8		5		2		7	
					8		9	
	7				9	4	3	
6			8			9		1
5			4	1				

hard

9				8		2		6
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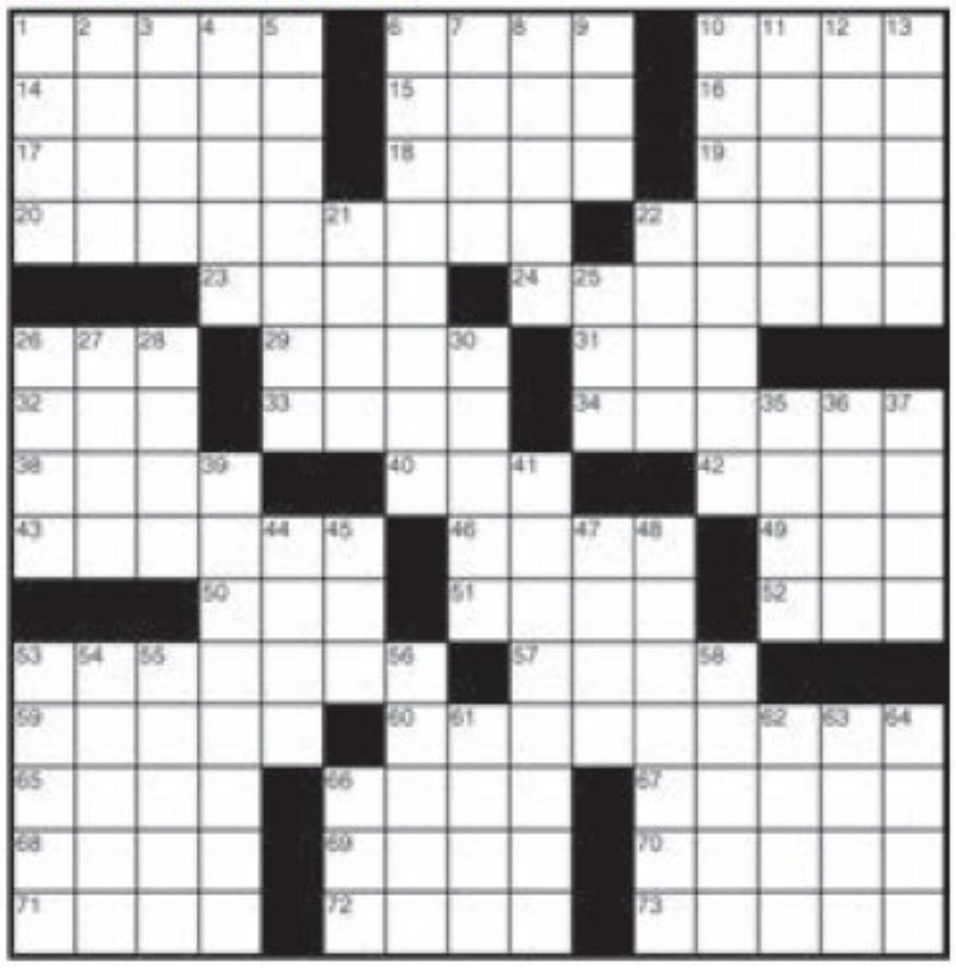
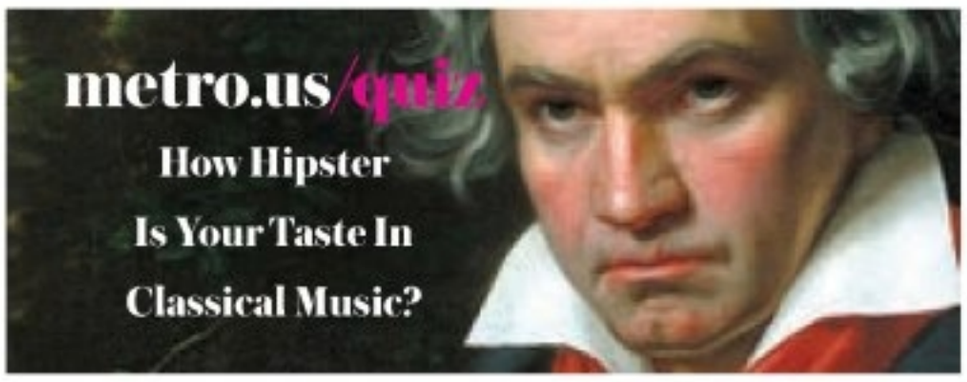


Across

1 Pay attention
6 Golf tees
10 Headstrong
14 Mall for Plato
15 Thickening agent
16 Inkling
17 Entices
18 NBA team
19 Grad's garb
20 One-sided victory
22 Destroy documents
23 Norse king
24 Hangs around
26 DVD predecessor
29 Throw off heat
31 Chatty alien
32 Road-map org.
33 Forest ruminant
34 Wakened
38 Reclined
40 Cold and windy
42 Focal points
43 Last page
46 More than a snack
49 Gleeful cry
50 Burr, to Hamilton
51 Name in cheesecake
52 "— -Tiki"
53 Morning mugfuls
57 Jokes around with
59 Trailer rental (hyph.)
60 Many-colored flower
65 Keep — on
66 Belmont Stakes
67 "Uncle Miltie"
68 Gardner of mystery
69 Church donations
70 Hypnotized
71 Cattail
72 Hurricane centers
73 Red-waxed cheese

Down

1 House part
2 Water, in Peru
3 Conflicted
4 Philosophy
5 Bothered
6 New mom's helper
7 Victorian oath
8 Judge's prop
9 AARP members
10 Just
11 Be crazy about
12 Kind of rat
13 Clock parts
21 Hobbling
22 Corn holder
25 Boathouse gear
26 Glen or dale
27 "Brian's Song" star
28 Surprise attack
30 Monorails
35 Marinate
36 Yodeler's answer
37 Zoologist — Fossey
39 Widely scattered
41 Foible
44 Eggnog time
45 You don't say!
47 Like the Sahara
48 Pretty beetle
53 More appealing
54 Windy City airport
55 Tale
56 Rough like a snake
58 Trial figure
61 Pinnacle
62 Karachi language
63 Ran away from
64 Prefix for "trillion"
66 — Dawn Chong



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Buyers are snapping up new houses

Realtors break down the summer housing market in Philadelphia.

JULIA WEST
letters@metro.us

Summer is a time for beer gardens and festivals to shine, but it's also great house-hunting season. We spoke to a couple of local pros to learn just how the summer housing market is shaping up so far. Hint: It's not too shabby.

Starting hot

"Philadelphia's market has been extremely strong this spring and summer," says David Snyder, Realtor and co-founder of Center City Listings. How does that translate into numbers? "The Center City market has settled approximately 16 percent more properties over the last four months than we did during the same period of 2014," Snyder says.

Frank DeFazio, Realtor at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Fox & Roach, likes to put it another way. "So far the market in Philly is characterized by low inventory, high demand and still historically low interest rates," explains DeFazio. "This combination is causing feeding frenzies for move-in-ready homes that are priced fairly."

Summer vacation

"Real estate markets are cyclical and we always hit a lull in late summer as families go on vacation and kids go back to school, says DeFazio. Both he and Snyder agree that we can expect to see a rise in interest rates by the end of the year.

The curveballs

"The biggest surprise is that the single-family new construction keeps booming across all price points and areas," says Snyder. "Philadelphia feels like a city on the rise with new construction in every stage of the process in every neighborhood." That equals more homes to offset the low inventory DeFazio mentioned.

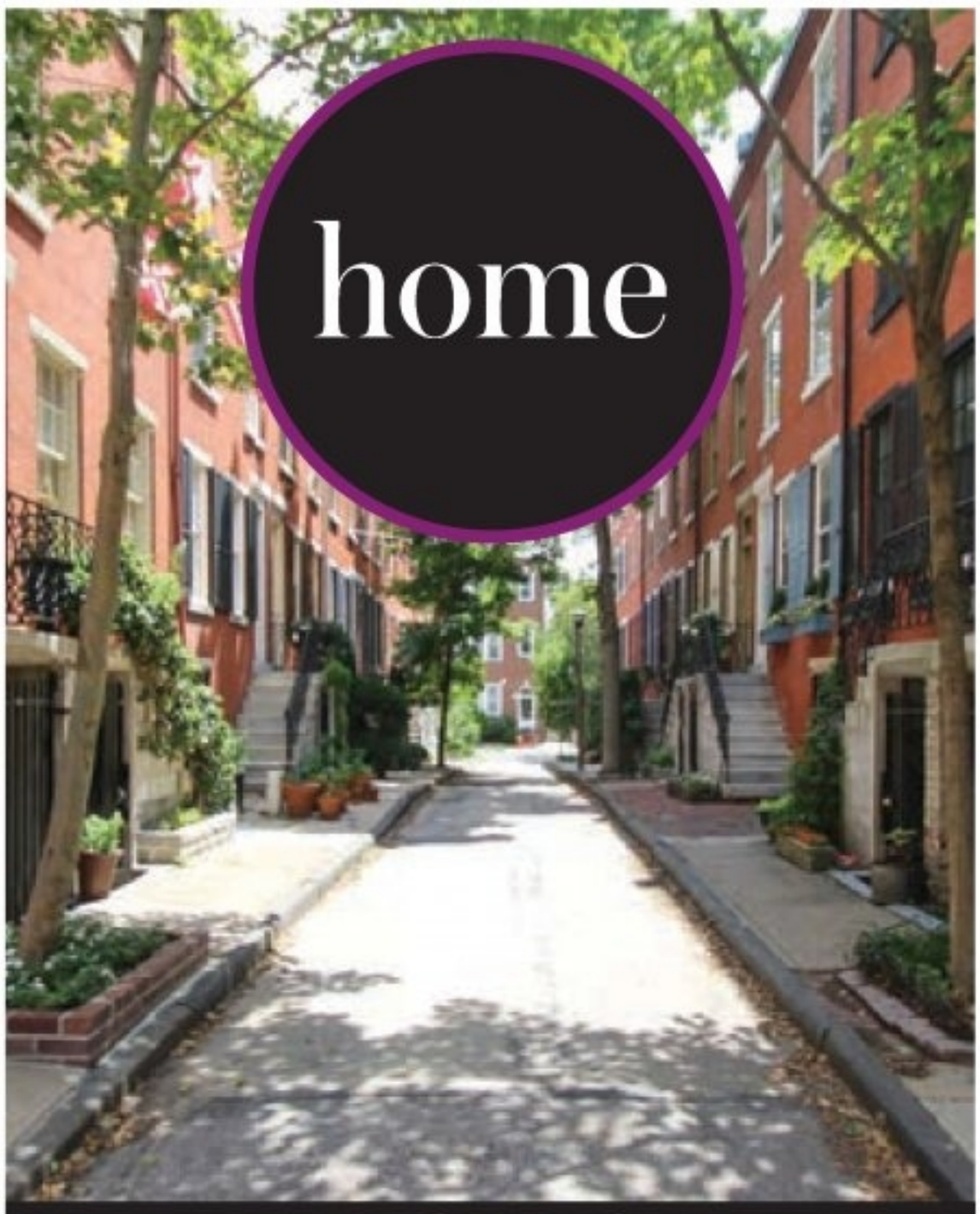
Where to hunt

"I'd say Fishtown and Pennsport are the two hot new neighborhoods getting the most attention both for the new residential housing projects they offer and the exciting businesses, restaurants and shopping options that are popping up," says DeFazio.

Snyder sees things a little differently: "It's hard to say one area is hotter than another, but what I would say is that new construction is hot. Established neighborhoods are selling out the little new construction they have at an insane pace.

"The days of pre-selling unfinished properties are back — with buyers needing to make the choice to buy often before a model home is even completed."

Realtor David Snyder says the housing market is strong. ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED



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Quick fixes for the renovation rookie

David Bromstad
GETTY IMAGES

HGTV's David Bromstad says paint and pillows will spruce up your space.

RACHEL KASHDAN
letters@metro.us

David Bromstad, one of the hosts of HGTV's new renovation competition series "Beach Flip" — where four amateur design teams compete for a $50,000 prize by revamping rundown beachfront properties — just loves a good home makeover. But what's his favorite part?

"The transformation — that's the most fun," he says. "I'm a designer at heart, and going in there and seeing a really crappy place and then starting to have a vision and seeing it come through is kind of magic."

Need a tiny bit of that transformative design magic for your own home projects? Bromstad offers four simple decor and renovation tips.

Shhh — don't tell the landlord

Between tenant rules and labor, painting can be a hassle. So why take the plunge?

"Because paint is the most inexpensive and most fabulous thing to do to really change the look of your entire space," insists Bromstad. "It's the most work, but it's totally worth it."

You can never have too many pillows

To transform your home without doing a total overhaul, consider Bromstad's favorite trick: swapping out decorative pillows.

"I am a pillow fanatic. I'm not kidding, I probably have, like, 400 pillows in storage," confesses the designer.

And unlike painting, it's a whole lot less work.

"For me it's all about changing the accessories. That is the easiest and most fun way to change your apartment. I do it once a week," says Bromstad.

"You can go into Target and grab a ton of them to figure out what works and then just take the others back. The great thing is that everyone has return policies."

Beams and columns add an architectural element and are easy to do, says Bromstad. ISTOCK

Add visual interest

If you're looking to drastically change the look of a room, consider adding faux ceiling beams for a rustic touch.

"I love, love, love creating architecture," says Bromstad.

His favorite idea from "Beach Flip" was when one of the contestants put up beams in their space.

"[Putting] beams on the ceiling costs almost nothing, and it's so easy to do. It doesn't have to be perfect to make great impact, and it doesn't have to be great quality wood, either," Bromstad says.

Mix and match furniture for a cool, modern feel, like this living room furnished by HomeGoods. MATT HARRINGTON

Stop with the 'matchy-matchy'

While it's important for the elements in a room to complement one another, incorporating furniture pieces that completely match each other is an outdated concept.

"The whole matchy-matchy thing, nuh-uh, not working for me," says Bromstad. "Even matching the coffee table and side table in your living room — give me a break. It just makes it look like you're in a department store."

Instead, to create a look that's both eclectic and cohesive, the designer says to look for distinctive pieces that have an element in common, like colors that complement each other or similar fabric textures.

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MLB Power Rankings | by Ryan Hannable

No. 1

Cardinals (54-28)

The Cardinals keep rolling, having won three straight games to now lead the NL Central by six games. It isn't just Michael Wacha picking up the slack for the injured Adam Wainwright as Carlos Martinez has nine wins.

No. 2

Astros (49-36)

The Astros continue to be led by Dallas Keuchel and his 2.14 ERA, the second-best mark in the AL. He could potentially start in the All-Star Game.

No. 3

Pirates (48-34)

The Pirates are on a roll, having won eight of their last 10, but they're still trailing in the division. Gerrit Cole's 12 wins remain the most in all of baseball.

No. 4

Dodgers (47-37)

In what was once a tight race in the NL West, the Dodgers have rattled off six wins in their last 10 to open up a five-game lead.

No. 5

Royals (46-33)

The Royals have an MLB-high six All-Star representatives. Though they've gone 5-5 in their last 10 they still lead the AL Central by four games.

No. 6

Nationals (46-37)

Led by Max Scherzer's nine wins and 1.82 ERA, the Nats lead the NL East by 3.5 games. Their plus-38 run differential is the only positive mark in the NL.

No. 7

Yankees (44-38)

Even though the Yankees are just 5-5 over their last 10 games, they are back on top of the division. Mark Teixeira's 59 RBIs rank first in the AL.

No. 8

Cubs (44-37)

The Cubs have been leapfrogged by the Pirates in the division and trail the Cards by 9.5 games. A wild-card berth should be the goal.

No. 9

Angels (44-38)

Winners of three straight and eight of 10, the Angels are making a run at the Astros for the top spot in the AL West. Albert Pujols has 25 homers.

No. 10

Twins (34-29)

The Twins have continued to play consistent ball and now trail the Royals by four games. But their 18-24 road record is something that needs to improve.

No. 11

Orioles (43-40)

The O's will send third baseman Manny Machado, closer Zach Britton, center fielder Adam Jones and set-up man Darren O'Day to the All-Star Game.

No. 12

Rays (43-41)

It was a tough week for the Rays as they've lost eight of 10. Chris Archer and reliever Brad Boxberger will head to the All-Star Game in Cincy.

No. 13

Mets (43-41)

New York has gotten back on track with wins in six of its last 10 games and now trails the Nats by 3.5 games in the NL East. Jacob deGrom will rep the Mets.

3 SPORTS

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Land of Lloyd

GETTY IMAGES

Carli Lloyd is the talk of the land after her hat trick in the USWNT's 5-2 win over Japan Sunday. The Delran, New Jersey, native's three first-half goals were highlighted by a brilliant strike from midfield over the outstretched arm of Japan's Ayumi Kaihori.

- Union head coach Jim Curtin said of Lloyd: "She had the game of a lifetime. That's the game you dream of as a kid. Everything just clicks and goes right."

Union still seeking consistency in play

MLS. Union looks to chop down Timber this weekend.

Maurice Edu, right, goes hard after a ball against the Los Angeles Galaxy. / GETTY IMAGES

The inconsistent roller coaster of a season continues for the Union, but at the moment they seem to be climbing back up the tracks and are hoping to avoid yet another steep drop in the Eastern Conference standings. The Union (5-10-4) knocked off the Western Conference's best team, the Seattle Sounders (10-7-2), 1-0, back on June 24 before tying the Montreal Impact (5-7-3), 2-2, just three days later. The team also advanced to the U.S. Open Cup quarterfinals in dramatic fashion last week, playing with just 10 men for the entire second half while defeating D.C. United, 2-1, in a come-from-behind victory.

The Union has hovered right outside of playoff position for the majority of the season and currently sits just four points out of the sixth and final spot with four months of season left to play.

"I thought our group took a big step [against D.C. United]," said Philly manager Jim Curtin. "In a lot of ways, it's the most proud I am since I've been the head coach because games like this bring groups together."

The team has now had more than a week to prepare for their next opponent, the Portland Timbers (9-6-4), on Saturday. The Timbers are led by forward Fanendo Adi, who ranks sixth in the MLS in goals scored this season with eight. The Union, who rank last in the MLS in goals allowed this season with 32, will have to find a way to keep a man in front of him and limit his looks on offense.

But Curtin is aware of his team's recent upswing in quality of play. Despite injuries, the Union continues to push in the right direction.

"In our last 10 games, if you quickly look at it, we're 6-3-1," Curtin said. "While we haven't done it in a sexy way, 6-3-1 is 6-3-1. It's a positive thing in your last 10 games."

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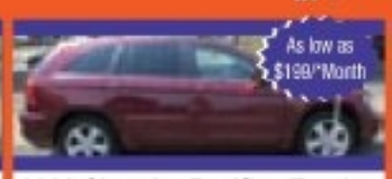
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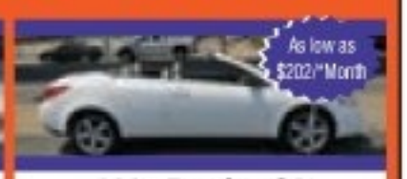
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Daniel Sheridan - 5104

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Precious K. Williams - #1106	Kevin Everette - #2228	Micheal D. Moser - #4034
Precious Williams - #1106	Brian Brickle - #3005	Micheal Moser - #4034
Jeanna L. Matthews - #1210	Michael D. Moser - #4034	

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LIST OF NAMES AND UNIT #S:

ALLEN, CURTIS C 5039 • ASHMORE, TYRONE 1008 • Edwards, Jacob 5179 • Gallimor, Angela M 5112
Howell, Kenneth 1059 • Parker, Andrea 5207 • Warnock-Craig, Jennifer 5144 • Brown, Chanda 5217 • Boyd, Maurice J 5088
Brown, Eddie 2080 • GILLISON, ZYMARA 1009 • JOHNSON, PRISCILLA 5034 • JOHNSON, LEVERN 2047
Jones, Lawanda 2084 • King, Joseph 3134 • Major, Gladys 1035 • Morrow, Jerry 5120 • Murray, Gwendolyn R 1084
Nattnor, Justine 1099 • Newby, Ronald D 5008D • Skipwith, Rhonda E 5136 • Thornton, Claudean 5059 • Turner, Karla 1019

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2098 HAWKINS, SEAN • 2027 COLEMAN, PATRICK M • 2564 Long, Colleen
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To: Howard Russell and next of kin of Howard Russell, deceased.
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